

# TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH  
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



T R A I L   &   L A N D S C A P E

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THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

- Founded 1879 -

President: Mr. Hue MacKenzie, 228 Royal Ave., Ottawa

Secretary: Mr. A. W. Rathwell, Can. Wildlife Service

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring quality environments for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, official journal of the Club, devoted to the publishing of research in natural history.  
TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members.  
See inside back cover.

Application for Membership should be addressed to:  
The Treasurer, Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club,  
Box 3264 Postal Station C, Ottawa 3.

YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME A MEMBER

# TRAIL & *Landscape*

Vol 3 No 1

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THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

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18 Briarcliffe Drive  
Ottawa 9, Canada

## *In this issue:*

The Annual Meeting	- - - - -	2
Forcing Wild Flowers	- - - - -	4
E. E. Gaertner		
A Lake Is Alive	- - - - -	8
Birds of the Ottawa Region	- - - - -	10
R. Pittaway		
Greenhorn in the Woods	- - - - -	16
II. Animals Inside and Outside		
R. Gilliat		
L & F Endorses Humane Trapping	- - - - -	22
Big Tree Report IV	- - - - -	24
Coming Events	- -	inside back cover

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the OFNC on December 9 was attended by some sixty persons and proved to be quite an interesting affair. One long-time club member declared afterward that it had been the liveliest Annual Meeting in living memory, or words to that effect. The reading of the Annual Report, a dreary and time-consuming feature of former Annual Meetings, was dropped this time in favour of giving a printed copy of the report to all members attending. Even without this reading, the program was a full one. It included election of Officers and Council for 1969 and voting on the new Constitution. President Hue MacKenzie gave a fine summary of the club's activities in the past year; we could not help being impressed by their variety and extent. Then followed a brief but admirable account of the OFNC Location Survey of Native Orchids by Ed Greenwood. His entertaining commentary accompanied stunning colour slides of Ottawa area orchids, mostly by club members. Finally, coffee and donuts, and a chance to greet members individually.

The program was too long to allow a full discussion among the members of the changes taking place within our club. Obviously those attending would have liked to air their views further. This situation may have influenced the Council in adopting a new bylaw providing for at least two meetings of the general membership annually, where members can express their views in person.

The new Constitution was approved by a majority of members attending the Annual Meeting. The most important changes from the old document concern objectives, and types of membership. The revised Objectives of the Club (see inside front cover) reflect a change in the attitude of its guiding members. Although in part a restatement in more modern terms of the original "Objects", the additions express our hope that this club will henceforth participate more actively in conservation measures, and by educational devices encourage public support for the preservation of natural areas, and of natural values in our landscape.

Remarks from the floor during the meeting revealed a certain uneasiness concerning the status of those who have been Associate Members. Some evidently felt that the Associates were to be eased out by elimination of

choice of type of membership and publications to be received. The increase in fee in itself was not regarded as unreasonable. The Council most emphatically does not intend to discourage former Associates from remaining with us; on the contrary, it is hoped that they will stay and participate further in club activities. The Council has indicated that the fee increase is an economic move not directly connected with other changes in conditions of membership. (The sending of both publications to local members is said to be a practical necessity to eliminate the burdensome task of maintaining separate mailing and billing operations.) Under discussion at present is a suggestion that those who wish to receive T & L only, but who do not wish or expect to participate in club activities, might be offered subscription to the magazine without membership in the club. This proposal recommends itself, as it would enable the OFNC to present the naturalists' viewpoint to a wider readership, and help to build public support in favour of "preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage".

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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE is put together largely through the efforts of volunteers. Listed on the inside front cover are the names of our regular staff, who devote many 'leisure' hours to getting out each issue on time. The names of contributors also appear with their words and pictures; we are grateful to all of them.

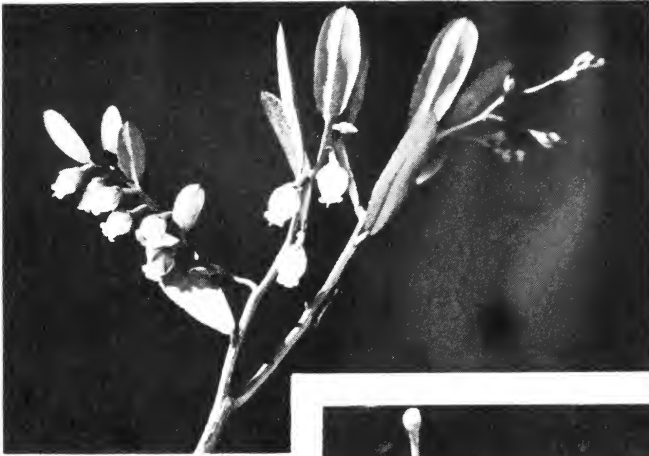
In addition, some unsung heroes and heroines deserve much credit for helping us in various ways. So far they have received no recognition in our pages for their valuable services. We think it is about time to mention that we especially appreciate the help of

Gilbert C. Bayly  
Deborah Beeton  
Norm Buck  
John Coleman

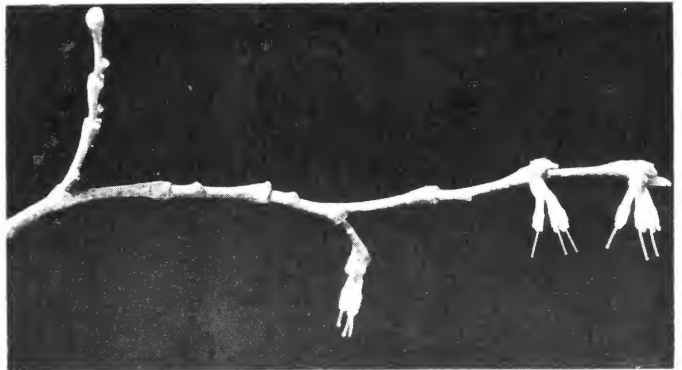
Dorothea Freeborn  
Vi Humphreys  
Gordie McNeill  
Wayne Snyder

On behalf of our readers, many thanks.

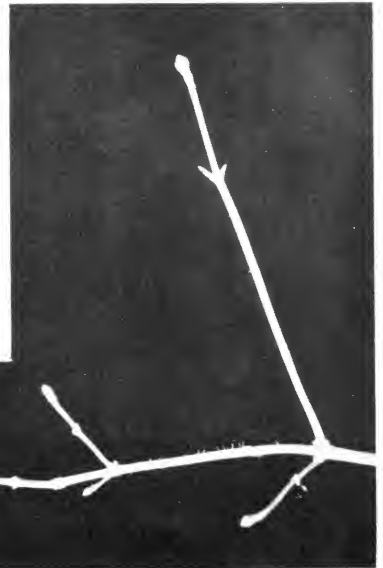
*Anne Hanes*  
Editor



Left:  
LEATHERLEAF



Right:  
LEATHERWOOD



Above & Right:  
FLY-HONEYSUCKLE

Photos:  
A. & G. R. Hanes

## FORCING WILD FLOWERS

E.E. Gaertner, P.Ag.  
Chalk River, Ontario

It is a well known fact that branches of such cultivated plants as Forsythia and cherries or apples can be forced into bloom from early winter on. The custom is so well established that in old times marriageable daughters in central Europe were prodding their future with efforts to produce cherry blooms by Christmas Eve. The girls picked cherry branches on December 5th and if they had flowers by Christmas Eve, they could expect to be married within the coming year. In the regions where Forsythia is not hardy, we can still enjoy in mid-winter, the cheerful blooms of spring, provided we choose wisely from among our native plants. Following the same practice as with the cultivated plants, we have to choose those that will flower before or at the same time as the leaves are developed. Because the branches are still bare or only beginning to show green when the flowers are in full bloom, some of the smaller or more inconspicuous ones will acquire an exotic effect. For the same reason we do not need a large bouquet but will be satisfied with one or two branches for an effective arrangement.

At Chalk River, I have successfully used four plants: the leatherwood (Dirca palustris L.), the fly-honeysuckle (Lonicera canadensis Bartr.), the hobblebush (Viburnum alnifolium Marsh.), and the leatherleaf (Chamaedaphne calyculata (L.) Moench.).

The leatherwood, best known for its very tough bark supposedly used by the Indians for shoe laces, is a medium-sized shrub. Its branches have a "stacked" appearance, that is, it seems that each node ends as one side of a triangle. To me, the bursting buds with the furry appearance of their scales and flat top, are as intriguing as the small bunches of drooping yellow flowers that burst forth from them. The most obvious part of these flowers is the yellow stamens and the stark contrast with the naked branches that gives them their aesthetic value.

The honeysuckle is also forced easily (I had both of these species in flower within a week's time when I brought them in at the end of January). The bush can attain six feet, although our individuals are usually only two feet high. It is easily identified by its slender grayish branches with slightly shreddy bark. The small sharp-pointed leaf buds are opposite and superposed along the spreading twigs. The flowers are very graceful, pale yellow, funnel-shaped, about  $3/4$  of an inch long; their slender peduncles originate in pairs within the single larger terminal buds, together with clusters of pale green leaves -- real harbingers of spring.

The choice of our branches for forcing has to be a bit more selective when we are working with the hobblebush. Only some of the buds of this tall bush (up to nine feet) will contain the sought-after flowers. Those of you who know the plant and have admired it in its flowering glory, might already be aware of the fact that sometimes no flowers are produced if the shrub is growing under a heavy overstory. The large flower buds,  $3/4$  to 1 inch in diameter, are by themselves an attractive decoration. There are no bud scales; rusty, heavily scurfy leaves form the protective covering. Then when they burst open they bring forth a flat cyme of large white flowers, up to an inch across. It might be appropriate to mention that these showy flowers are sterile, while the central fertile ones are inconspicuous. Because the buds are not only terminal at the end of the main branch, but also on short branches that usually seem all situated on one side, a single branch can make a Japanese-type arrangement. This plant flowers in the woods later than the other two and therefore will need a longer time indoors to develop. The time needed to produce a flower becomes progressively shorter as the date of natural flowering approaches.

Finally we come to the leatherleaf, the ericaceous plant of boggy places, which will keep its leathery leaves (though they become coppery in colour) throughout the winter. We find that after we have brought them in they will lose most of their old leaves by the time the white urn-shaped flowers develop. They hang on the underside of the leafy branches in a one-sided raceme. I find them really less useful as decoration in the house than as a demonstration of floral development.



For anybody who believes that the beauty of Nature should be admired in situ only, and be preserved for others to enjoy, let me stress again that I expect collections to be made sparingly in isolated places only, where our action can be likened to regular pruning. Where the leatherleaf is concerned, this plant grows in extensive stands where an occasional "pruning" will be of no consequence.

### HOBBLEBUSH

Right: Leaf-bud "mittens"

Below: Flower-buds





Photo by Anne Hanes

## A LAKE IS ALIVE

In many ways, a lake is a living thing. It breathes and has a circulation; it is warmed and fed, it harbours many other living things, and in cold weather it goes into a winter sleep.

Water is a strange substance in many respects. For example, it expands, becomes lighter and floats when turned into ice. As water cools, it shrinks, becomes more dense and heavier until about 39 degrees Fahrenheit. As the temperature drops to freezing, it starts to expand and becomes lighter again. The trait of having its maximum density about seven degrees above freezing has important consequences for all life in the water that depends on oxygen. It causes a complete circulation or overturn at least twice a year - in spring and again in autumn - like deep breaths carrying oxygen-rich water to all parts of the lake from top to bottom.

When a pond or lake is covered with ice, all water beneath is without movement as if it were holding its breath and hibernating until spring.

In spring, after the ice melts and the surface water warms towards 39 degrees, it sinks and pushes the oxygen-starved bottom waters up to the surface. At this time, winds may also cause circulation. Later, as the surface water becomes warmer and lighter, only the upper layer is circulated by moderate winds. The cold bottom layer is left undisturbed unless there is a complete turnover that occurs sometimes as a result of violent storms. In the cleaner, deeper lakes without too much rotting vegetation, there is enough oxygen to last all summer. In others, it is used up, so that fish are forced to the surface to escape suffocation.

With the coming of chilly nights in autumn, the surface water cools and sinks again, forcing the bottom water up. Then, with the temperature near 39 degrees, winds cause the entire body of water to circulate, and the lake receives its second long breath of the year, before it freezes over and goes into its long winter sleep.

-- Chapleau District Report

reprinted from SYLVA: a former publication of  
the Department of Lands and Forests of Ontario

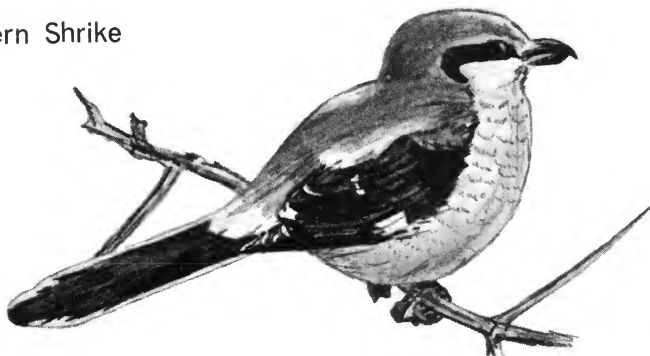
# THE BIRDS OF THE OTTAWA REGION

Ron Pittaway

This list is intended to give only the most general information on the status and seasonal occurrence of the birds of Ottawa. When a bird is seen outside the time listed here, it can usually be assumed that it is early, late, or rare. This list is arranged to follow W. Earl Godfrey's "The Birds of Canada" and contains all birds definitely known to have occurred around Ottawa; that is, within a thirty-mile radius of the War Memorial.

In using this list, one must remember that the Ottawa region is composed of two vastly different ecological zones; the Ottawa Valley (depositional lowland) and the Gatineau (Precambrian Shield). It is therefore to be expected that many birds in the Gatineau area (e.g. warblers) will have quite different breeding range and abundance from those of the Ottawa Valley, and vice versa. This factor was taken into account when the status of these species was determined.

## Northern Shrike



Brian Morin

To increase the usefulness of this list, the following terms must be well understood:

- Abundant: seen in great numbers
- Common: seen in good numbers
- Fairly Common: implies lesser numbers than "common"
- Uncommon: seen in small numbers
- Scarce: a few regular every year
- Rare: of regular occurrence; usually seen every year
- Very Rare: seen every few years
- Casual: a few records; to be looked for
- Accidental: recorded, not expected to occur again
- Erratic: irregular, sometimes absent
- Resident: same as permanent resident

Acknowledgements: Special thanks are extended to Dan Brunton for valuable assistance in preparing this list; he also helped to formulate the definitions. Thanks are due to Monty Brigham and Brian Morin for valuable suggestions.

COMMON LOON: Fairly common migrant; a few breed. Early April to November  
 RED-THROATED LOON: Very rare migrant. October to early December  
 RED-NECKED GREBE: Migrant; rare spring, scarce fall. September to November  
 HORNED GREBE: Fairly common migrant. Mid-April-early May; late Sept.-Dec.  
 PIED-BILLED GREBE: Fairly common breeder. Early April to November  
 HARCOURT'S PETREL: Accidental  
 WILSON'S PETREL: Accidental  
 WHITE PELICAN: Accidental  
 GANNET: Casual fall visitor  
 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Rare spring and fall migrant  
 GREAT BLUE HERON: Fairly common summer visitor; breeds. Late March to Nov.  
 GREEN HERON: Fairly common breeder. May to early October  
 CATTLE EGRET: Casual; to be looked for  
 BLACK CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Scarce visitor. Mid-April to early fall  
 LEAST BITTERN: Scarce breeder. Mid-May to September  
 AMERICAN BITTERN: Fairly common breeder. Mid-April to November  
 WHISTLING SWAN: Very rare migrant. April and late fall  
 CANADA GOOSE: Abundant migrant. Late March to May; Sept. to November  
 BRANT: Erratically common migrant. Late May to early June; mid-Sept. to Nov.  
 SNOW GOOSE (includes BLUE GOOSE): Scarce spring and fall migrant  
 MALLARD: Abundant migrant; uncommon breeder. A few winter  
 BLACK DUCK: Abundant resident; breeds  
 GADWALL: Very rare in migration  
 PINTAIL: Common migrant; a few breed. Late March to late November  
 GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Common migrant; scarce breeder. Early April to Nov.  
 BLUE-WINGED TEAL: Abundant breeder. Mid-April to October  
 EUROPEAN WIDGEON: Casual; to be looked for  
 AMERICAN WIDGEON: Fairly common migrant; rare breeder. Early Apr. to Nov.  
 SHOVELLER: Uncommon migrant; rare breeder. Mid-April to October  
 WOOD DUCK: Fairly common breeder. Late March to November  
 REDHEAD: Scarce migrant; usually with large groups of Scaups (sp.)  
 RING-NECKED DUCK: Common migrant; scarce summer. Late March to December  
 CANVASBACK: Scarce migrant; usually with Scaups (sp.)  
 GREATER SCAUP: Abundant migrant; April & May; again September to December  
 LESSER SCAUP: Common migrant. April & May; again September to November  
 COMMON GOLDENEYE: Abundant winter visitor. Oct. to May. Rare summer. Has bred  
 BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: Very rare winter visitor  
 BUFFLEHEAD: Fairly common migrant. Early Apr. to early May; Oct. to Dec.  
 OLDSQUAW: Scarce spring migrant; uncommon fall. October to December  
 KING EIDER: Casual late fall visitor  
 WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Migrant; uncommon May; fairly common early Oct. to Nov.  
 SURF SCOTER: Migrant; scarce May; fairly common early October to November  
 COMMON SCOTER: Migrant; rare spring, uncommon early October to November  
 RUDDY DUCK: Very rare migrant  
 HOODED MERGANSER: Fairly common migrant. Breeds in Gatineau. Rare winter  
 COMMON MERGANSER: Common migrant. Rare summer. A few dozen winter  
 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Migrant; scarce spring; rare summer. Uncommon Oct-Dec.  
 TURKEY VULTURE: Rare visitor; spreading  
 SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Accidental  
 GOSHAWK: Fairly common winter visitor; rare breeder  
 SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Uncommon migrant; rare breeder. Very rare in winter  
 COOPER'S HAWK: Uncommon migrant; scarce breeder. Very rare in winter  
 RED-TAILED HAWK: Fairly common migrant; scarce breeder. Very rare in winter  
 RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: Scarce migrant and breeder. Very rare in winter  
 BROAD-WINGED HAWK: Fairly common breeder. Mid-April to late September  
 SWAINSON'S HAWK: Accidental  
 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Migrant; sometimes fairly common. March to April;  
 October to December. Scarce winter  
 GOLDEN EAGLE: Casual visitor  
 BALD EAGLE: Rare all months. Has bred(?)  
 MARSH HAWK: Fairly common breeder. March to November. Very rare in winter

OSPREY: Uncommon migrant; a few breed in the Gatineau. Mid-April to Oct  
GYRFALCON: Very rare winter visitor  
PEREGRINE FALCON: Rare migrant. Decreasing in numbers  
PIGEON HAWK: Scarce migrant. Very rare in winter  
SPARROW HAWK: Fairly common breeder. Late March to Oct. A few winter  
SPRUCE GROUSE: Probably extirpated in our area  
RUFFED GROUSE: Common resident; breeds  
RING-NECKED PHEASANT: Uncommon resident; breeds. Most Dow's L., Alta Vista  
GRAY PARTRIDGE: Common resident; breeds  
KING RAIL: Casual visitor  
VIRGINIA RAIL: Fairly common breeder. Late April to October  
SORA: Fairly common breeder. Late April to October  
YELLOW RAIL: Very rare migrant. Perhaps breeds. Hard to locate  
COMMON GALLINULE: Fairly common breeder. Late April to early October  
AMERICAN COOT: Migrant; scarce spring, rare summer, uncommon fall. Sept-Nov.  
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: Fairly common migrant. Late May; mid-July to October  
PIPING PLOVER: Accidental  
KILLDEER: Common breeder. Mid-March to mid-November  
AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: Rare migrant, usually fall. August to November  
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Migrant; scarce May, uncommon early Aug. to Nov.  
RUDDY TURNSTONE: Scarce migrant. Late May to early June; Aug. to Sept.  
AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Common breeder. Late March to November  
COMMON SNIPES: Common breeder. Late March to November  
WIMBREL: Very rare migrant. Late May and fall  
UPLAND PLOVER: Uncommon breeder. Late April to August  
SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Common breeder. Late April to Sept. Stragglers later  
SOLITARY SANDPIPER: Uncommon migrant. May; July to October  
WILLET: Casual visitor  
GREATER YELLOWLEGS: Fairly common migrant. Late Apr.-May; late July-Nov.  
LESSER YELLOWLEGS: Fairly common migrant. May; late July to October  
KNOT: Rare migrant. Late May; August to September  
PURPLE SANDPIPER: Casual fall visitor  
PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Migrant; scarce May, uncommon late July to December  
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Migrant; very rare May; scarce late July to Nov.  
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Rare migrant. Late July to October  
LEAST SANDPIPER: Common migrant. May; early July to October  
DUNLIN: Fairly common migrant. May; September to November  
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Scarce migrant. May and fall  
STILT SANDPIPER: Very rare migrant. July to October  
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: Migrant; uncommon May, abundant mid-July to Oct.  
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Casual fall visitor  
MARBLED GODWIT: Casual fall visitor  
HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Very rare migrant. September to November  
SANDERLING: Migrant; scarce May, uncommon late July to November  
RED PHALAROPE: Casual fall migrant  
WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Very rare migrant, spring and fall  
NORTHERN PHALAROPE: Very rare migrant, mainly fall. August to September  
PARASITIC JAEGER: Casual migrant  
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Accidental  
GLAUCOUS GULL: Uncommon migrant. March to May; Oct. to early winter  
ICELAND GULL: Uncommon migrant; mainly October to early winter  
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Scarce migrant  
HERRING GULL: Abundant migrant Mar.-May; few summer; again Sept.-early winter  
RING-BILLED GULL: Abundant migrant, non-breeding summer visitor. Apr.-Dec.  
FRANKLIN'S GULL: A few sight records ("The Birds of Canada")  
BONAPARTE'S GULL: Uncommon migrant. Late April & May; early Aug. to Nov.  
SABINE'S GULL: Accidental  
COMMON TERN: Fairly common breeder. Early May to early October  
CASPIAN TERN: Very rare migrant  
BLACK TERN: Fairly common breeder. Early May to early September  
THICK-BILLED MURRE: Casual late fall & early winter visitor. Large numbers driven inland by storms in Gulf of St. Lawrence

COMMON PUFFIN: Accidental  
 ROCK DOVE: Abundant resident; breeds  
 MOURNING DOVE: Common breeder. Late March to November. Rare in winter  
 PASSENGER PIGEON: Formerly abundant; now extinct  
 YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: Scarce summer visitor; breeds  
 BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Uncommon breeder. Mid-May to September  
 BARN OWL: Casual visitor  
 SCREECH OWL: Scarce resident; breeds  
 GREAT HORNED OWL: Fairly common resident; breeds  
 SNOWY OWL: Winter visitor, sometimes fairly common. October to April  
 HAWK OWL: Rare winter visitor. November to April  
 BARRED OWL: Uncommon resident; breeds  
 GREAT GRAY OWL: Very rare winter visitor. November to April  
 LONG-EARED OWL: Scarce breeder. April to November. Very rare in winter  
 SHORT-EARED OWL: Usually scarce, sometimes fairly common migrant.  
     Rare winter. Has bred  
 BOREAL OWL: Very rare winter visitor. November to March  
 SAW-WHET OWL: Scarce resident; breeds  
 WHIP-POOR-WILL: Locally fairly common summer resident; breeds. Early May-Sept.  
 COMMON NIGHTHAWK: Common breeder. Mid-May to early September  
 CHIMNEY SWIFT: Abundant breeder. Late April to September  
 RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: Fairly common breeder. Early May-late Sept.  
 BELTED KINGFISHER: Fairly common breeder. Early April to November  
     Rare in early winter  
 YELLOW-SHAFED FLICKER: Common breeder. Early April to late October  
     Very rare in winter  
 PILEATED WOODPECKER: Uncommon resident; breeds  
 RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: Casual visitor  
 RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: Rare summer visitor; breeds. Absent some years  
 YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: Common breeder (Gatineau). Mid-Apr. to mid-Oct.  
 HAIRY WOODPECKER: Resident; breeds. More common in winter  
 DOWNY WOODPECKER: Common resident; breeds  
 BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODP'R: Uncommon winter visitor, Mid-Sept.-April  
 NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODP'R: Formerly very rare winter visitor; recently scarce  
 EASTERN KINGBIRD: Common breeder. Early May to early September  
 GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: Common breeder. Early May to early September  
 EASTERN PHOEBE: Common breeder. Late March to late October  
 YELLOW-BELLIED FLYC'R: Scarce migrant. Late May; late summer. Rare breeder  
 TRAIL'S FLYCATCHER: Fairly common breeder. Late May to mid-September  
 LEAST FLYCATCHER: Abundant breeder. Early May to mid-September  
 EASTERN WOOD PEWEE: Common breeder. Mid-May to late September  
 OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Scarce migrant & breeder. Late May to early Sept.  
 HORNED LARK: Abundant migrant; uncommon breeder. Mid-Feb.-Nov. Scarce winter  
 TREE SWALLOW: Abundant breeder. Late Mar.-early Sept. Stragglers later  
 BANK SWALLOW: Abundant breeder. Early May to early September  
 ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: Uncommon breeder. Late April to early September.  
     Stragglers later  
 BARN SWALLOW: Abundant breeder. Mid-April to early September  
 CLIFF SWALLOW: Uncommon breeder. Early May to early September  
 PURPLE MARTIN: Common breeder. Mid-April to early September  
 CANADA JAY (GRAY JAY): Rare fall & winter visitor. October to March  
 BLUE JAY: Common resident; breeds  
 COMMON RAVEN: Scarce resident in Gatineau; breeds. Very rare elsewhere  
 COMMON CROW: Abundant breeder. Late Feb. to Nov. Uncommon in winter  
 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: Abundant resident; breeds  
 BOREAL CHICKADEE: Rare fall & winter visitor. October to March  
 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Fairly common resident; breeds  
 RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Resident; scarce breeder; sometimes common migrant.  
     Winters in varying numbers  
 BROWN CREEPER: Fairly common migrant; uncommon breeder, and in winter  
 HOUSE WREN: Fairly common breeder. early May to early October

WINTER WREN: Fairly common migrant, uncommon breeder. Mid-April to Nov.

Very rare winter

CAROLINA WREN: Casual visitor

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN: Locally common breeder. Early April to early Oct.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN: Uncommon breeder. Mainly May to September

MOCKINGBIRD: Rare visitor; may breed

CATBIRD: Common breeder. Early May to mid-October

BROWN THRASHER: Common breeder. Late April to mid-October

AMERICAN ROBIN: Abundant breeder. Mid-March to late Oct. Scarce in winter

WOOD THRUSH: Fairly common breeder. Early May to late September

HERMIT THRUSH: Common migrant; uncommon breeder. Mid-April to early Nov.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: Fairly common migrant. May; Sept.-early Oct. A few breed

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: Scarce migrant. May and September

VEERY: Common breeder. Early May to September

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: Uncommon breeder. Late March to October

WHEATEAR: Accidental (Sight record "The Birds of Canada")

TOWNSEND'S SOLITARE: Accidental, sight record by writer and two others

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: Very rare in migration. May

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: Common migrant. Apr. mid-Sept.-Nov. Scarce winter

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Common migrant. mid-Apr. to mid-May; mid-Sept. to Nov.

WATER PIPIT: Migrant, scarce spring Apr. & May; common mid-Sept. to mid-Nov.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Erratic winter visitor, sometimes common. Oct. to April

CEDAR WAXWING: Abundant breeder. May-Oct. Usually a few winter. Erratic

NORTHERN SHRIKE: Uncommon winter visitor. October to April

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Uncommon breeder. Late March to October

STARLING: Abundant resident; breeds

WHITE-EYED VIREO: Casual visitor

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Rare breeder. Mid-May to mid-September

SOLITARY VIREO: Fairly common migrant. May; early Sept.-Oct. Scarce breeder

RED-EYED VIREO: Abundant breeder. Mid-May to early October

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Scarce migrant. Mid-May; mid-Aug.-Sept. May breed

WARBLING VIREO: Common breeder. Early May to late September

BLACK-&-WHITE WARBLER: Fairly common breeder. Early May to late September

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Rare in migration. May

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Common migrant. Mid-May; mid-August to late September

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Scarce migrant. May; September to October

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Abundant migrant, uncommon breeder. Early May - early Oct.

PARULA WARBLER: Uncommon migrant. May; mid-Aug. to Sept. May breed

YELLOW WARBLER: Abundant breeder. Early May to mid-Sept.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Common migrant, scarce breeder. Early May to late Sept.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Uncommon migrant. May; mid-August to Sept. Rare breeder

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Fairly common migrant, uncommon breeder.

Early May to early October

MYRTLE WARBLER: Abundant migrant, scarce breeder. Late April to November

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: Common migrant, uncommon breeder.

Early May to early October

CERULEAN WARBLER: Very rare in migration

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Common migrant, uncommon breeder. Mid-May to mid-Sept.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Accidental (sight record "The Birds of Canada")

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: Abundant breeder. Mid-May to mid-September

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Fairly common migrant. Late May; mid-Aug. to late Sept.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: Common migrant. Late May; mid-August to late September

PINE WARBLER: Uncommon breeder. Late April to October

PRAIRIE WARBLER: Casual in migration

PALM WARBLER: Migrant; uncommon May, fairly common Sept.-mid-Oct. Has bred

OVENBIRD: Common breeder. Early May to late September

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: Fairly common breeder. Early May to late September

MOURNING WARBLER: Uncommon breeder. Mid-May to mid-September

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: Common breeder. Early May to mid-October

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Casual visitor

WILSON'S WARBLER: Fairly common migrant. Mid-May; mid-Aug. to late Sept.

CANADA WARBLER: Fairly common migrant, uncommon breeder. Mid-May-mid-Sept.



AMERICAN REDSTART: Common breeder. Early May to late September  
 HOUSE SPARROW: Abundant resident; breeds  
 BOBOLINK: Common breeder. Early May to early September  
 EASTERN MEADOWLARK: Abundant breeder. Late Mar.-early Nov. Very rare winter  
 WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Rare summer visitor; possible breeder  
 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD: Abundant breeder. Mid-Mar.-mid-Nov. Winter stragglers  
 BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Common breeder. Early May to mid-September  
 RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Abundant migrant. Late March to mid-May; late September  
 to November. Very rare in winter  
 COMMON GRACKLE: Abundant breeder. Mid-March to Nov. Winter stragglers  
 BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD: Abundant breeder. Mid-Mar.-Nov. Winter stragglers  
 SCARLET TANAGER: Fairly common breeder. Mid-May to late September  
 SUMMER TANAGER: Accidental  
 CARDINAL: Scarce resident; may breed. Usually seen in winter  
 ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK: Common breeder. Early May to late September  
 INDIGO BUNTING: Common breeder. Late May to late September  
 DICKCISSEL: Very rare visitor [breeds  
 EVENING GROSBEEK: Erratic; usually abundant winter visitor. Scarce summer;  
 PURPLE FINCH: Uncommon breeder. Erratic; sometimes common in winter  
 PINE GROSBEEK: Erratic; sometimes common winter visitor. Oct. to March  
 HOARY REDPOLL: Scarce to rare winter visitor. Erratic; usually found with  
 Common Redpolls  
 COMMON REDPOLL: Erratic; often abundant winter visitor. October to April  
 PINE SISKIN: Erratic; often common migrant and winter visitor.  
 Scarce summer; breeds  
 AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: Abundant breeder. Sometimes common in winter. Erratic  
 RED CROSSBILL: Erratic winter visitor, sometimes fairly common.  
 October to April. Scarce breeder  
 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Erratic winter visitor, sometimes common.  
 October to April. Breeds(?)  
 RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE: Uncommon breeder. Mid-April to mid-October  
 SAVANNAH SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Mid-April to October  
 GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Uncommon local breeder. Early May to early fall  
 HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Erratic; uncommon to rare breeder. Early May - early fall  
 SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: Very rare migrant  
 VESPER SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Mid-April to October  
 SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: Abundant migrant. Late March to early May; mid-Sept.  
 to mid-November. Scarce breeder. Scarce in winter  
 OREGON JUNCO: Very rare migrant and winter visitor  
 TREE SPARROW: Abundant migrant. Usually common in winter. Oct.-early May  
 CHIPPING SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Late April to late October  
 CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Scarce migrant & local breeder. May to fall. Increasing  
 FIELD SPARROW: Fairly common breeder. Mid-April to late October  
 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Abundant migrant. Early May; late Sept. to October  
 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Late April to Nov. Rare in winter  
 FOX SPARROW: Uncommon migrant. April; late September to late October  
 LINCOLN'S SPARROW: Scarce migrant. May; September to October  
 SWAMP SPARROW: Common breeder. Mid-April to November  
 SONG SPARROW: Abundant breeder. Mid-March to Nov. Winter stragglers  
 LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Scarce migrant & winter visitor. Found with  
 Snow Buntings and Horned Larks  
 SNOW BUNTING: Erratic winter visitor, usually abundant. Mid-Oct. to April

In addition to this list, there are four birds that have not yet been  
 recorded in Ottawa and should be watched for. They are easy to overlook  
 and appear similar to other species:

WESTERN SANDPIPER  
 CONNECTICUT WARBLER

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD  
 LECONTE'S SPARROW

## GREENHORN IN THE WOODS

Rosemary Gilliat

### Part II: Animals Inside and Outside

Returning to springclean our cabin each fall, Anna and I wondered where the deer mice would have built their nests. Made of stuffing from a mattress (reduced to limp lumpiness by the mice) a nest might be among the books, in the stove or tucked neatly into a toothmug. Invariably there was a redolent specimen on the upper bunk, often complete with family, which had to be ejected.

Before Shilly-Shally days I classed mice with rats; as vermin. But one couldn't help getting fond of deer mice. Guests even offered to do the dishes so they could watch the antics of the mice on the window ledge feeding, playing or grooming their glossy brown and white fur - the underparts looking as clean as the snow they sat on. "Better than a TV show" the watchers said. One evening when the dishwater had been drained, peculiar noises issued from the plumbing - which was a newly-installed pipe joining the sink to an outside drainfield. Anna said the pipe must be "adjusting". Seconds later a very sodden mouse scrambled to the lip of the sink, teetered there with drooping whiskers, then plopped wetly to the floor and scurried under the woodpile.

Reactions to mice varied. No one actually climbed on a rocker, but one friend wrote tersely in our guestbook: "I was never partial to mice". Another spent a whole evening coaxing a mouse onto her knee.

On rare occasions a boreal red-backed vole and a star-nosed mole were seen. There was also a bit of darting velvet which Anna thought was a masked shrew. She offered it a crust and the shrew bit her. (Our book did say it was carnivorous.)

Like everyone else new to red squirrels I was overcome by their charm and sweeping orange tails. Very soon I grasped that as far as humans were concerned, squirrels were a piratical bunch of yobbos

with a genius for breaking and entering. Some lower logs of the old cabin were rotten and offered no challenge to the squirrels which spent the week pushing jars off shelves and generally smashing things up.

Once driven to fury by the chaos of broken glass, and goulash of Nescafé, sugar and jam tracked all over the cabin, we decided to deport some of the delinquents. Anna invented a light bird-trap with two doors worked by rubber bands which she tightened to cope with the squirrels. When she pulled the release the falling door whanged the first squirrel clean through the cage and out of the far door like a guided missile. It landed in a stamping frenzy of outrage. Even if we had succeeded, a variant of Parkinson's Law would have ensured an inexhaustible supply of squirrels. Being around seven days a week they and the mice had squatter's rights. We resigned ourselves to co-existence but hung up the bedding and put all food into armour-plated rodent-repellent containers.

In spring we saw a few timid black squirrels but none in the grey phase. One evening we thought we saw a black squirrel swaying about in a small tree. Looking more closely we found it was a young porcupine. We grabbed a camera, bent the sapling over, shook the bewildered creature into a box and rushed it to a hill-top -- just in time for a photo before the sun slipped down. The little porcupine looked deceptively furry, but it slapped out bravely with its tail, leaving some respectable prickles in Anna's mitts. We replaced it on its tree and a parent duly claimed it.

With many animals there was no problem of identification -- merely of seeing them. Unless we scared them up bush-whacking we just tried to decipher their tracks and scats and tooth and claw marks. There was a rather snowless winter when the earliest snowfall was pitted with thousands of tracks, and this brought home to me the incredible amount of animal activity that always went on around us -- normally unseen and unsuspected.

Being city-bred I didn't realize the importance of wind, sound and scent. Many times I blundered around upwind of an occupied beaver lodge setting up photographic gear and then sitting back naively to wait for

RED SQUIRREL believes that  
half a loaf is better than no bread



SNOWSHOE HARE almost  
disappears between snow  
and screen of twigs

DEER in snowy woods



Photos by  
Rosemary  
Gilliat

the beaver that never came. Some beaver dammed an upper reach of Fortune Creek one year and their little wall of mud and sticks grew and grew. Behind it the pond rose and it looked as if the cabin might float away. However, there was constant warfare between the Ottawa Ski Club Trail Riders (who maintain ski trails) and the beaver -- whose interests conflicted directly. The dam was breached and the beaver moved away.

Bears were tucked away till spring and then we never saw them near the cabin, but we saw foxes, raccoons, chipmunks and groundhogs. One Easter I skied to within three feet of a "frozen" snowshoe hare which never budged. It was almost invisible but for one dark eye.

New guests presumed the nights would be silent. The cabin could be the most peaceful place on earth -- when the smoke rose in a plume, the silence buzzed in your ears and the stars shone so hard you expected to hear them crackle. But more nights were less peaceful than this. The kirsch-flavoured fondue I made for Christmas failed, and thoughtlessly I put out the rubbery cheese for the mice. There was an orgy. The mice squeaked and bumped into things and frolicked till dawn. We hardly slept.

On Friday nights we skied in from Kingsmere, arriving tired but warm and tumbled into our bunks without lighting a fire. Once I forgot to remove the birds' suet supply from my pack. We were awakened by the sound of tearing paper. The flashlight revealed a snowy weasel ripping furiously at the layers of "Ottawa Journal" that wrapped the suet. The weasel looked savage and beautiful, glaring at us with ruby eyes -- just daring us to interrupt. We shouted and hurled paperbacks; it darted away but soon flowed back. Thinking of its needle teeth and my bare toes, I gingerly opened the window, batted the weasel out with the flashlight and tossed the suet after it.

We often saw whitetail deer, and a young friend was enchanted when we sneaked up to one -- moving when its head was down and "freezing" as it looked up. We thought we might attract deer to the cabin, so a benefactor lugged in two enormous blocks of salt. He tumbled them down against the cabin where they lay all

week with the rain washing over them. Our next guest was roused by a maddening, monotonous chawing that sounded like that sawyer beetle larva in the Algonquin Park record -- with the volume turned up high and then amplified. It was a porcupine savouring our salty bottom log. The friend wrote: "Another restful weekend. Owls hooting, coons rattling pails, frogs croaking, porcupine undermining cabin and mice on my pillow -- but I'll be back."

Then there was that quiet March evening when we were reading by the ineffectual glow of oil lamps. Only the kettle purred softly or a log shifted in the stove. A sudden appalling chorus of howls burst out close to the cabin. The adrenalin shot to our toes. Recovering, we opened the door cautiously and shone a light in the direction of the uproar -- but the wolves had melted into the dark. Next morning we found five sets of tracks.

The cabin made a perfect photographic hide. We rigged flashes one night to get shots of a deer mouse on the window feeder. We moved away to change films when, returning to the window, we really got a jolt. The mouse had ballooned up to three times its former size. That cliché "we just couldn't believe our eyes" is accurate. Fieldglasses reveal wonderful details of wildlife, but I'll never forget the fascination of examining our supermouse at whisker's length. Its back was the colour of a deer, separated from the creamy fur below by a black line. It had a queer flattened tail and hairless, veined pink ears. Most striking were its huge and lustrous night-vision eyes. We guessed it was a flying squirrel and photographed it frantically in case it should evaporate.

A happy memory of Shilly-Shally was the night some friends skied in to celebrate the New Year. They were in full song when we noticed two flying squirrels feeding side by side on the ledge ignoring the racket and our friends who crowded round the window to admire them. Evidently humans behind glass were considered harmless.

The old cabin is gone, but nostalgia is odd. My regular eiderdown is a sleeping bag from Shilly-Shally's top bunk -- known because of its fading but evocative scent as the 'mouse blanket'.

DEER MICE enjoy  
nocturnal nibble



Photos by  
Rosemary Gilliat



FLYING SQUIRREL comes at night to window ledge of cabin  
in Gatineau woods to steal sunflower seeds put out for birds

LANDS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT  
ENDORSES HUMANE TRAPPING

Information received by the department of lands and forests from a number of licenced trappers in 12 of Ontario's forest districts revealed that 92 per cent are using humane traps to some extent. Seventy-nine are using humane traps exclusively, while only 44 reported the exclusive use of leghold traps. The trappers have a total of 68,485 traps, 8,159 of which are the humane type, principally Conibear.

The annual fur harvest is the oldest Ontario industry and during recent years has fluctuated in value between two-and-a-half and four million dollars. The most valuable single species is the beaver and Ontario's beaver pelt production has been more than 100,000 a year for the last 17 years. A substantial proportion of Ontario Indians still make most of their livelihood from furs.

Trappers, wildlife officials and the public have long been dissatisfied with the conditions under which furs were taken, but until recent years nothing was done. A start was made with the invention of the Conibear trap by a trapper and the department has promoted tests of a number of traps hoping one will be found that will kill the trapped animal quickly and yet be just as efficient and practical as the leghold traps now in general use.

When an adequate substitute is found, the department will take steps to eliminate the legholds. There are several reasons why this cannot be done as yet, according to the department's fish and wildlife branch. The majority of trappers believe that under most conditions humane traps can be employed more efficiently than leghold traps for harvesting beaver and otter. However, it is impossible to use the humane kinds presently available for the harvest of species such as wolves, lynx, and fox. Most trappers do not consider leghold traps inhumane when properly used in drowning sets for aquatic animals and the wide use of the Conibear trap is partly due to its efficiency, rather than its humane qualities.



The use of humane traps in harvesting land animals is considered impractical by the majority of trappers as they can't be set effectively. Consequently, most land animals are captured by use of the leghold trap.

The higher cost of the humane trap as compared to the leghold is preventing many trappers from using more of the former, particularly in the harvesting of beaver and otter.

The present cost of one humane trap is in excess of the cost of three leghold traps. In addition to the lower cost, the leghold trap is more familiar and may be used efficiently on all species. The lighter weight of the leghold trap (2.5 lbs.) as opposed to the humane trap (6 lbs.) makes its use more practical in remote areas where equipment must be transported by back packing.

Trappers, through the Ontario Trappers' Association, the Canadian Association for Humane Trapping, the provinces, the federal government and the National Research Council, are all co-operating in the search for a substitute that will make the leghold trap obsolete.

NEWSLETTER Ontario Department of  
Lands and Forests  
September 6, 1968

#### HISTORIC PLANT LIST ....

A century-old plant list has been rescued from obscurity and made available to Ottawa naturalists through the efforts of Dr. William Dore. This "List of plants collected by Mr. B. Billings in the vicinity of the city of Ottawa during the summer of 1866" was first published in the Transactions of The Ottawa Natural History Society in 1867. It has now been reprinted by the Plant Research Institute, with an interesting historical background and a commentary on the list itself provided by Dr. Dore. A limited number of reprints is still available to interested naturalists, free upon request. Write Dr. W.G. Dore, Plant Research Institute, Ottawa.

# BIG TREE REPORT IV

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>CBH</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>CD</u>	<u>Big.</u>
White Ash	Fraxinus americana	Stanley Corners (31 G/4 291089)	D. Smith	67	69	40	146
Alternate-leaf Dogwood	Cornus alternifolia	Britannia (31 G/5 383227)	D. Brunton	6	16	13	25
Hemlock	Tsuga canadensis	Stanley Corners (31 G/4 291089)	D. Smith	82	62	47	156
Striped Maple	Acer pensylvanicum	Britannia (31 G/5 385231)	D. Brunton	13	36	15	53
Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	Val Tetreau (31 G/5 416300)	W. Thomson	170	67	68	254
White Spruce	Picea glauca	Meach Lake (31 G/12 294450)	J. Davison	92	84	31	184
Tamarack	Larix laricina	Meach Lake (31 G/12 289449)	J. Davison	45	87	20	137

CBH..circumference, breast height, inches; Ht...height, feet; CD..crown diameter, feet. Bigness number is obtained by adding CBH plus Ht. plus  $\frac{1}{4}$ CD. Map locations refer to military grid numbers. Other listings of big trees appeared in T & L in Sept.-Oct. 1967, Jan.-Feb., 1968 and May-June, 1968. Nominations for champion big trees should be sent to either Harry Thomson (234-0845) or Gary Hanes (749-2400).

## O F N C COMING EVENTS

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee  
E. W. Greenwood, Chairman

Saturday 25 January WINTER BIRDS WEST OF OTTAWA  
Route: Ottawa River - Shirley Bay,  
South March Dump - Almonte -  
Carleton Place - Ottawa  
Leader: D. Brunton  
Meet: Health & Welfare Building  
8:00 a.m. A half-day outing.

Sunday 23 February NORTHERN BIRDS - GRAY JAYS, BOREAL  
CHICKADEES and RAVENS  
Route: Ottawa - Shawville - Otter  
Lake - Lake Usborne Lumber Depot.  
Leader: M. Brigham  
Meet: Parking Lot, Chaudiere Golf  
& Country Club on Route #8, at  
7:00 a.m. An all-day outing (about  
80 miles one way). Bring a lunch  
and dress warmly.

Tuesday 11 February BIRD RECOGNITION LECTURES

Tuesday 18 February A repeat of last year's successful

Tuesday 25 February and useful series, intended to  
assist new birdwatchers to identify  
the species reasonably frequent in the Ottawa area. The  
content of each lecture is flexible, depending on audience  
interest. The tentative plan is two sessions in visual  
recognition (with slides) and one on bird songs and  
calls (with recordings).

Speaker: George McGee

Place: Macoun Club Room (359)  
National Museum

Time: 8:00 p.m.

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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